

ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT:

4a Wadham Gardens

London

NW3 3DP

REPORT PREPARED FOR:

Sid Smith Project Management Ltd 39 Streathbourne Road London SW17 8QZ

REPORT PREPARED BY

Adam Hollis
MSc ARB MICFor FArbor A MRICS C Env

Ref: SSA/4WDM/AIA/01

Date: 2nd July 2014

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Caveats

This report is primarily an arboricultural report. Whilst comments relating to matters involving built structures or soil data may appear, any opinion thus expressed should be viewed as qualified, and confirmation from an appropriately qualified professional sought. Such points are usually clearly identified within the body of the report. It is not a full safety survey or subsidence risk assessment survey. These services can be provided but a further fee would be payable. Where matters of tree condition with a safety implication are noted during a survey they will of course appear in the report.

A tree survey is generally considered invalid in planning terms after 2 years, but changes in tree condition may occur at any time, particularly after acute (e.g. storm events) or prolonged (e.g. drought) environmental stresses or injuries (e.g. root severance). Routine surveys at different times of the year and within two - three years of each other (subject to the incidence of the above stresses) are recommended for the health and safety management of trees remote from highways or busy access routes. Annual surveys are recommended for the latter.

Tree works recommendations are found in the Appendices to this report. It is assumed, unless otherwise stated ("ASAP" or "Option to") that all husbandry recommendations will be carried out within 6 months of the report's first issue. Clearly, works required to facilitate development will not be required if the application is shelved or refused. However, necessary husbandry work should not be shelved with the application and should be brought to the attention of the person responsible, by the applicant, if different. Under the Occupiers Liability Act of 1957, the owner (or his agent) of a tree is charged with the due care of protecting persons and property from foreseeable damage and injury.' He is responsible for damage and/or nuisance arising from all parts of the tree, including roots and branches, regardless of the property on which they occur. He also has a duty under The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to provide a safe place of work, during construction. Tree works should only be carried out with local authority consent, where applicable.

Inherent in a tree survey is assessment of the risk associated with trees close to people and their property. Most human activities involve a degree of risk, such risks being commonly accepted if the associated benefits are perceived to be commensurate.

Risks associated with trees tend to increase with the age of the trees concerned, but so do many of the benefits. It will be appreciated, and deemed to be accepted by the client, that the formulation of recommendations for all management of trees will be guided by the cost-benefit analysis (in terms of amenity), of tree work that would remove all risk of tree related damage.

Prior to the commencement of any tree works, an ecological assessment of specific trees may be required to ascertain whether protected species (e.g. bats, badgers and invertebrates etc.) may be affected.

Tree Constraints & Protection Overview

Client: Sid Smith Project Mana	agement Ltd	Case Ref:	SSA/4WDM/AIA/01
Local Authority: LB Camden		Date:	3rd July 2014
Site Address: 4a Wadham Gardens, Londor	n NW3 3DP		
Proposal: New basement area and first floo	or extension		
Report Checklist	Y/N		Y/N
Arboricultural constraints on site	Υ	Trees removal proposed	Y
Tree Survey	Υ	Topographical Survey	Υ
BS5837 Report	Υ	Conservation Area	Y
Tree Preservation Orders	NK		
Tree Protection Plan:	N/a	(Include in future method s	statement)
Tree Constraints Plan:	Y		
Arboricultural Impact Assessment:	Υ		
Site Layout			
Site Visit Y Date: 29/06/14		Access Full/Partial/No	one F
Trees on Site	Y	Off-site Trees	Υ
Trees affected by development	N	O/s trees affected by deve	elopment Y
Tree replacement proposed:	N	On or off-site trees indirec development	tly affected by N
Trees with the potential to be affected			
off-site beech tree T1 – the trial pit has incommended therefore impact is negligible. Comments Tree has decay in its trunk, but is off-site. C			
Recommendations			
1 Proposal will mean the loss of import		PO/CA)	N
2 Proposal has sufficient amelioration			N/a
3 Proposals provide adequate tree pro			Y
4 Proposal will mean retained trees are			N
5 Specialist demolition / construction to			N
6 The Proposal will result in significant			N
7 Further investigation of tree condition	rocommon	dod	N/a

RPA= Root Protection Area

TPP= Tree Protection Plan

AMS= Arboricultural Method Statement

AIA = Arboricultural Implication Assessment
BS5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations'

Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report : 4a Wadham Gardens, London NW3 3DP
Prepared for: Sid Smith Project Management Ltd, 39 Streathbourne Road London SW17 8QZ
Prepared by: Adam Hollis of Landmark Trees, 20 Broadwick Street, London W1F 8HT

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report comprises an arboricultural impact assessment of the proposals for 4a Wadham Gardens, London NW3 3DP, reviewing any conflicts between the proposals and material tree constraints identified in our survey.
- 1.2 There is one off-site tree that would be potentially affected by the alterations to 4a Wadham Gardens; this is a category B copper beech tree. Moderate quality trees and above are significant material constraints on development. However, those constraints will vary under site conditions and subject to site investigations: whilst the beech would potentially constrain the proposals, they are contained within the existing footprint, where few roots from this shallow-rooted species were anticipated.
- 1.3 The trial pits support / confirm the view that there is no rooting from the off-site beech within the proposed development area, beneath the existing house. The principal primary impacts in the current proposals are therefore negligible, subject to the manual excavation of the basement line of the two external walls, tangential to T1's RPA limits (the north east and south eastern external walls).
- 1.4 There are negligible secondary impacts associated with this subterranean development proposal.
- 1.5 The site has potential for development without impacting significantly on the wider tree population or local landscape. Thus, with suitable mitigation and supervision the scheme is recommended to planning.

^{*} British Standards Institute: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction BS 5837: 2012 HMSO, London

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Terms of reference

- 2.1.1 LANDMARK TREES were asked by Sid Smith Project Management Ltd to provide a survey and an arboricultural impact assessment of proposals for the site: 4a Wadham Gardens, London NW3 3DP. The report is to accompany a planning application.
- 2.1.2 The proposals are for a new basement area and first floor extension, with lateral links to basement, ground floor and first floor levels. This report will assess the impact on the trees and their constraints, identified in our survey. Although the proposals were known at the time of the survey, Landmark Trees endeavour to survey each site blind, working from a topographical survey, wherever possible, with the constraints plan informing their evolution.
- 2.1.3 I am a Registered Consultant and Fellow of the Arboricultural Association and a Chartered Forester, with a Masters Degree in Arboriculture and 25 years experience of the landscape industry including the Forestry Commission and Agricultural Development and Advisory Service. I am a UK Registered Expert Witness, trained in single joint expert witness duties. I am also Chairman of the UK & I Regional Plant Appraisal Committee, inaugurated to promote international standards of valuation in arboriculture.

2.2 Drawings supplied

2.2.1 The drawings supplied by the client and relied upon by Landmark Trees in the formulation of our survey plans are:

Existing site survey: Existing GF from 4a Wadham Gdns April 14 Small*

Proposals: Proposed GF from 4a Wadham Gdns April 14 small

*In the absence of a full topographical survey, tree positions may be approximate only.

2.3 Scope of survey

- 2.3.1 As Landmark Trees' (LT) arboricultural consultant, I surveyed the trees on site on 6th June 2014, recording relevant qualitative data in order to assess both their suitability for retention and their constraints upon the site, in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction Recommendations [BS5837:2012].
- 2.3.2 Our survey of the trees, the soils and any other factors, is of a preliminary nature. The trees were SURVEYED on the basis of the Visual Tree Assessment method expounded by Mattheck and Breloer (The Body Language of Trees, DoE booklet Research for Amenity Trees No. 4, 1994). LT have not taken any samples for analysis and the trees were not climbed, but inspected from ground level.
- 2.3.3 A tree survey is generally considered invalid in planning terms after 2 years, but changes in tree condition may occur at any time, particularly after acute (e.g. storm events) or prolonged (e.g. drought) environmental stresses or injuries (e.g. root severance). Routine surveys at different times of the year and within two three years of each other (subject to the incidence of the above stresses) are recommended for the health and safety management of trees remote from highways or busy access routes. Annual surveys are recommended for the latter.
- 2.3.4 The survey does not cover the arrangements that may be required in connection with the laying or removal of underground services.

2.4 Survey data & report layout

- 2.4.1 Detailed records of individual trees are given in the survey schedule in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.4.2 A site plan identifying the surveyed trees, based on the client's drawings / topographical survey is provided in Appendix 3.
- 2.4.3 This plan also serves as the Tree Constraints Plan with the theoretical Recommended Protection Areas (RPA's), tree canopies and shade constraints, (from BS5837: 2012) overlain onto it. These constraints are then overlain in turn onto the client's proposals to create an Arboricultural Impact Assessment Plan in Appendix 4. General observations and discussion follow, below.

3.0 OBSERVATIONS

3.1 Site description



Photograph 1: Aerial View of 4a Wadham Gardens (outlined in red)

- 3.1.1 4a Wadham Gardens consists of a one and a half storey former annexe addition (outlined in red in the above photograph) adjoining number 4 Wadham Gardens. The property is under separate title to number 4 Wadham Gardens but is currently under the same ownership. Both properties are currently in residential use.
- 3.1.2 The site is relatively level.
- 3.1.3 In terms of the British Geological Survey, the site overlies the London Clay Formation (see indicated location on Fig.1 plan extract below). The associated soils are generally, highly shrinkable clay; e.g. slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay. Such highly plastic soils are prone to movement: subsidence and heave. The actual distribution of the soil series are not as clearly defined on the ground as on plan and there may be anomalies in the actual composition of clay, silt and sand content.
- 3.1.4 Clay soils are prone to compaction during development with damage to soil structure potentially having a serious impact on tree health. The design of foundations near problematic tree species will also need to take into consideration subsidence risk. Further advice from the relevant experts on the specific soil properties can be sought as necessary.

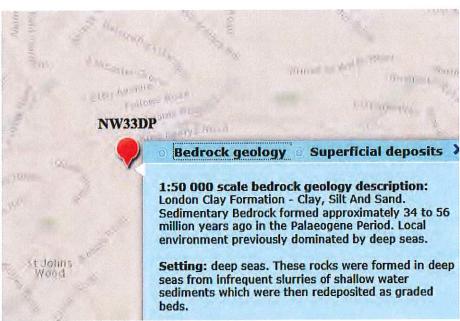


Figure 1: Extract from the BGS Geology of Britain Viewer

3.2 Subject trees

- 3.2.1 There is one off-site category B copper beech tree that is potentially affected by the proposals. The tree is mature and pollarded, providing a 10 meter clearance to the main crown.
- 3.2.2 Full details of the surveyed tree can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.

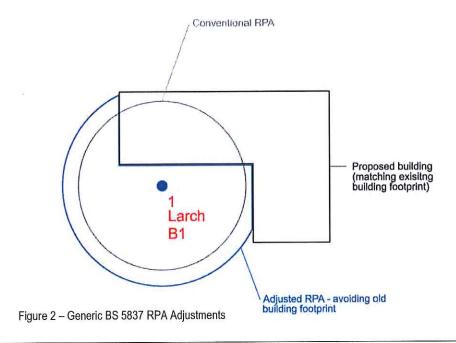
3.3 Planning Status

3.3.1 There is no on-line information regarding Tree Preservation Orders in the borough; to find out if a tree is protected it is necessary to contact the tree preservation team by email on the website or Tel: 020 7974 4444. The site stands within the Elsworthy Conservation Area, which will affect the subject trees: it is a criminal offence to prune, damage or fell such trees without permission from the local authority.

4.0 DEVELOPMENT CONSTRAINTS

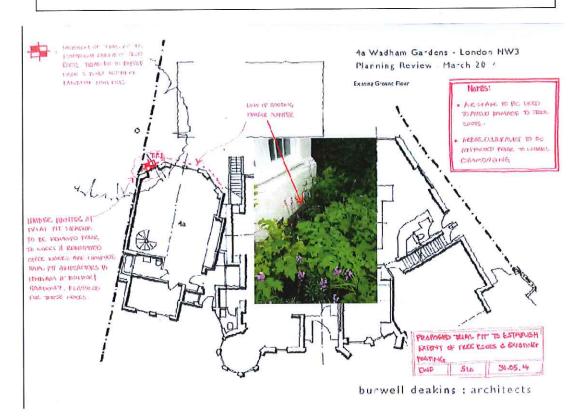
4.1 Primary constraints

- 4.1.1 BS5837: 2012 gives Recommended Protection Areas (RPA's) for any given tree size. The individual RPA's are calculated in the Tree Schedule in Appendix 1 to this report, or rather the notional radius of that RPA, based on a circular protection zone. The prescribed radius is 12-x stem diameter at 1.5m above ground level, except where composite formulae are used in the case of multi-stemmed trees.
- 4.1.2 Circular RPA's are appropriate for individual specimen trees grown freely, but where there is ground disturbance, the morphology of the RPA can be modified to an alternative polygon, as shown in the diagram below (Figure 2). Alternatively, one need principally remember that RPA's are area-based and not linear notional rather than fixed entities. No modifications have been made in this instance (please see overleaf), although further investigations have been undertaken to determine the root distribution of T1 within the proposed development area.



4.1.3 In BS5837, paragraph 4.6.2 states that RPA's should reflect the morphology and disposition of the roots; where pre-existing site conditions or other factors indicate that rooting has occurred asymmetrically, a polygon of equivalent area should be produced. Modifications to the shape of the RPA should reflect a soundly based arboricultural assessment of likely root distribution.

- 4.1.4 The site investigations undertaken on 16 June 2014 (see diagram below and Appendix 2), which determined that there were no roots from T1 beneath the existing building; the current building is constructed on an impenetrable concrete mass to at least 1.5m deep, which has acted as a barrier to rooting from the beech tree.
- 4.1.5 The quality of trees will also be a consideration: U Category trees are discounted from the planning process in view of their limited service life. Again, Category-C trees would not normally constrain development individually, unless they provide some external screening function.
- 4.1.6 At paragraph 5.1.1. BS5837: 2012 notes that "Care should be exercised over misplaced tree preservation; attempts to retain too many or unsuitable trees on a site are liable to result in excessive pressure on the trees during demolition or construction work, or post-completion demands on their removal."



Extract 1: Location of trial pit

4.1.10 Moderate quality trees and above are significant material constraints on development. However, those constraints will vary under site conditions and subject to site investigations: whilst the beech would potentially constrain the proposals, they are contained within the existing footprint, where no roots from this shallow-rooted species were discovered.

4.1.11 In this instance, the only constraints to development are those roots tangential to development, parallel to the existing footings. The footprint is clear of constraint, but the excavation and facing works at these outer limits will need to proceed with due caution, to protect the off-site Category B copper beech tree.

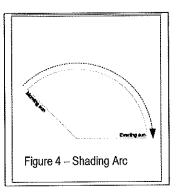
4.2 Secondary Constraints

4.2.1 The second type of constraint produced by trees that are to be retained is that the proximity of the proposed development to the trees should not threaten their future with ever increasing demands for tree surgery or felling to remove nuisance shading (Figure 3), honeydew deposition or perceived risk of harm.



Figure 3 – Generic Shading Constraints

4.2.2 The shading constraints are crudely determined from BS5837 by drawing an arc from northwest to east of the stem base at a distance equal to the height of the tree, as shown in the diagram opposite. Shade is less of a constraint on non-residential developments, particularly where rooms are only ever temporarily occupied.



- 4.2.3 This arc (see Figure 4) represents the effects that a tree will have on layout through shade, based on shadow patterns of 1x tree height for a period May to Sept inclusive 10.00-18.00 hrs daily.
- 4.2.4 Assuming that it will be retained, the off-site tree has the potential to provide a variety of secondary constraints, including shading and organic deposition. The significance of these constraints will vary depending on the location and proximity to the proposed redevelopment.

Note: Sections 5 & 6 will now assess the impacts upon constraints identified in Section 4. Table 1 in Section 5 presents the impacts in tabular form (drawing upon survey data presented in Appendices 1 & 2). Impacts are presented in terms of whole tree removal and the effect on the landscape or partial encroachment (% of RPA) and its effect on individual tree health. Section 6 discusses the table data, elaborating upon the impacts' significance and mitigation.

Table 1: Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Hide irrelevant Show All Trees

RPA Trial pits have confirmed that there is not rooting below	0 0.0	2		Basement Construction within	Affected 50 5 m ²	Mature	Normal	Poor N/A	N/A	guing
pits have confirmed that	œ	_	Beech, Copper	Basement Construction within RPA	50.5 m Mature	Mature	Normal	Ţ	OOI	
Trial pits have confirmed that there is not rooting below					10.70					
				Trial pits have confirmed that there is not rooting below						

6.0 DISCUSSION

1 4

6.1 Rating of Primary Impacts

- 6.1.1 The trial pits have confirmed that there is no rooting from the off-site beech within the proposed development area, which is situated beneath the existing house. The principal primary impacts in the current proposals are therefore negligible, subject to the manual excavation of the basement line of the two external walls which will face T1's RPA limits (the north east and south eastern external walls).
- 6.1.2 The principal of RPA encroachment is established within BS5837:2012 and supported by the source document, National Joint Utilities Guidelines 10 / Vol. 4 1995 / 2010. NJUG introduced the x12 diameter *Precautionary Zone* for supervised working and *Prohibited Zone* at a universal 1m from the base of the tree. RPA's are frequently confused with the NJUG Prohibited Zone, when they clearly correlate with the NJUG Precautionary Zone.
- An RPA encroachment of <20% of RPA may be considered as low impact, given the permissive references to 20% RPA relocation and impermeable paving within BS5837:2012 and other published references to healthy trees tolerating up to 30-50% root severance (Coder, Helliwell and Watson in CEH 2006). The trees in question are healthy specimens of species with a good resistance to development impacts, and quite capable of tolerating these low impacts.
- 6.1.4 "In practice 50% of roots can sometimes be removed with little problem, provided there are vigorous roots elsewhere. Inevitably, this degree of root loss will temporarily slow canopy growth and even lead to some dieback" (Thomas 2000). LT do not recommend annexing such high proportions of the root system; rather that within the context of the published science, planning should not be unduly concerned by impacts that are well below the subcritical threshold tree health is not at stake.

6.2 Rating of Secondary impacts

6.2.1 There are negligible secondary impacts associated with this subterranean proposal.

6.3 Mitigation of Impacts

- 6.3.1 The limits of excavation within RPAs will be undertaken manually for the wall adjoining the RPA; in the unlikely event any roots are encountered they will be cleanly pruned back to an appropriate junction with a sharp pruning saw or secateurs back to a junction. Roots larger than 25mm diameter may only be cut in consultation with an arboriculturalist.
- 6.3.2 Ground protection will be required to protect the RPA during the construction works.
- 6.3.2 Any replacement paving/hard landscaping will require a no-dig construction technique, either using a cellular confinement system with no fines aggregate for the sub-base or simply building upon the existing sub-base without disturbing the ground below. Choice of construction method will initially depend upon root penetration within the existing sub-grade. The key principle is not to excavate in the presence of roots and to provide a porous surface to promote healthy soil water relations for future root growth.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The trial pit results have determined that there is no rooting beneath the existing house where the basement is proposed. Therefore the potential impacts of development are negligible.
- 7.2 The full potential of the impacts can be mitigated through precautionary measures. These measures can be elaborated in Method Statements in the discharge of planning conditions.
- 7.3 Therefore, the proposals will not have any significant impact on either the retained tree or wider landscape. Thus, with suitable mitigation and supervision the scheme is recommended to planning.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

* ;

8.1 General Recommendations

- 8.1.1 Any trees which are in close proximity to the proposed development should be protected with a Tree Protection Barrier (TPB). Protective barrier fencing should be installed immediately following the completion of the tree works, remaining in situ for the entire duration of the development unless otherwise agreed in writing by the council. It should be appropriate for the intensity and proximity of the development, usually comprising steel, mesh panels 2.4m in height ('Heras') and should be mounted on a scaffolding frame (shown in Fig 2 of BS5837:2012). The position of the TPB can be shown on plan as part of the discharge of conditions, once the lay out is agreed with the planning authority. The TPB should be erected prior to commencement of works, remain in its original form on-site for the duration of works and removed only upon full completion of works.
- 8.1.2 A TPB may no longer be required during soft landscaping work but a full arboricultural assessment must be performed prior to the undertaking of any excavations within the RPA of a tree. This will inform a decision about the requirement of protection measures. It is important that all TPBs have permanent, weatherproof notices denying access to the RPA.
- 8.1.3 The necessary machinery should be located above the existing grade level and work away from any retained trees. This will ensure that any spoil is removed from the RPAs. It is vital that the original soil level is not lowered as this is likely to cause damage to the shallow root systems.
- 8.1.5 If sections of hard surfacing are proposed in close proximity to trees, it is recommended that "No-Dig" surfacing be employed in accordance with BS5837:2012 and 'The Principles of Arboricultural Practice: Note 1, Driveways Close to Trees, AAIS 1996 [APN1]'.
- 8.1.6 If the RPA of a tree is encroached by underground service routes then BS5837:2012 and NJUG VOLUME 4 provisions should be employed. If it is deemed necessary, further arboricultural advice must be sought.
- 8.1.7 Numerous site activities are potentially damaging to trees e.g. parking, material storage, the use of plant machinery and all other sources of soil compaction. In operating plant, particular care is required to ensure that the operational arcs of excavation and lifting machinery, including their loads, do not physically damage trees when in use.
- 8.1.8 To enable the successful integration of the proposal with the retained trees, the following points will need to be taken into account:
 - 1) Plan of underground services.
 - Schedule of tree protection measures, including the management of harmful substances.

- Method statements for constructional variations regarding tree proximity (e.g. foundations, surfacing and scaffolding).
- 4) Site logistics plan to include storage, plant parking/stationing and materials handling.
- 5) Site supervision: the Site Agent must be nominated to be responsible for all arboricultural matters on site. This person must:
 - be present on site for the majority of the time;
 - be aware of the arboricultural responsibilities;
 - have the authority to stop work that is causing, or may cause harm to any tree;
 - ensure all site operatives are aware of their responsibilities to the trees on site and the consequences of a failure to observe these responsibilities;
 - make immediate contact with the local authority and/or a retained arboriculturalist in the event of any tree related problems occurring.
- 8.2.9 These points can be resolved and approved through consultation with the planning authority via their Arboricultural Officer.
- 8.2.10 The sequence of works should be as follows:
 - i) installation of TPB for demolition & construction;
 - ii) installation of underground services;
 - iii) installation of ground protection;
 - iv) main construction;
 - v) removal of TPB;

r i d

vi) soft landscaping.

9.0 REFERENCES

- Barlow JF & Harrison G. 1999. Shade By Trees, Arboricultural Practice Note 5, AAIS, Farnham, Surrey.
- British Standards Institute. 2012. Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction
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 and Installation; J Wiley & Sons inc. NJ USA

APPENDIX 1

1.1

TREE SCHEDULE

Notes for Guidance:

- 1. Height describes the approximate height of the tree measured in metres from ground level.
- The Crown Spread refers to the crown radius in meters from the stem centre and is expressed as an average of NSEW aspect if symmetrical.
- 3. Ground Clearance is the height in metres of crown clearance above adjacent ground level.
- 4. Stem Diameter (Dm) is the diameter of the stem measured in millimetres at 1.5m from ground level for single stemmed trees. BS 5837:2012 formula (Section 4.6) used to calculate diameter of multi-stemmed trees. Stem Diameter may be estimated where access is restricted and denoted by '#'.
- 5. Protection Multiplier is 12 and is the number used to calculate the tree's protection radius and area
- 6. Protection Radius is a radial distance measured from the trunk centre.
- Growth Vitality Normal growth, Moderate (below normal), Poor (sparse/weak), Dead (dead or dying tree).
- 8. Structural Condition Good (no or only minor defects), Fair (remediable defects), Poor Major defects present.
- Landscape Contribution High (prominent landscape feature), Medium (visible in landscape),
 Low (secluded/among other trees).
- 10. B.S. Cat refers to (British Standard 5837:2012 section 4.5) and refers to tree/group quality and value; 'A' High, 'B' Moderate, 'C' Low, 'U' Unsuitable for retention. The following colouring has been used on the site plans:
 - High Quality (A) (Green),
 - Moderate Quality (B) (Blue),
 - Low Quality (C) (Grey),
 - Unsuitable for Retention (U) (Red)
- 11. Sub Cat refers to the retention criteria values where 1 is Arboricultural, 2 is Landscape and 3 is Cultural including Conservational, Historic and Commemorative.
- 12. Useful Life is the tree's estimated remaining contribution in years.



No.

English Name

Height Crown Ground

Ground Stem Clearance Diamete

Protection Growth Structural B.S. Radius Vitality Condition Cat

Beech, Copper

17

თ

5.0

900

Mature

11 1

Date: 29 May 2014 Site: 4 Wadham Gardens

Appendix 1

BS5837 Tree Constraints Survey Schedule

Landmark Trees Ltd

020 7851 4544

Surveyor(s): Adam Hollis SSA/4WDM/AIA

Ref:

Comments

			10.8
			Normal
			Fair
			w
			N
			20+
*10m clearance to main crown	Remote survey only	Decay in trunk	Pollarded

APPENDIX 2

vs e

TRIAL PIT INFORMATION

2224 WADHAM GARDENS TOI lovering. flurer Boo 46 Slown Top Soil with Russ AND SHALL PLEAS of BALL Als SMALL SCHOOLED GENER GENOVALLY BEOMING MIRE SANDY AND MICE PULLS OF BUCK FULL orgact WATER HODED TO PIT HENTED Samples of arm 0-75 150 1.00 1.50 UNTERSTOR LUTT from. 1.50 REOTS

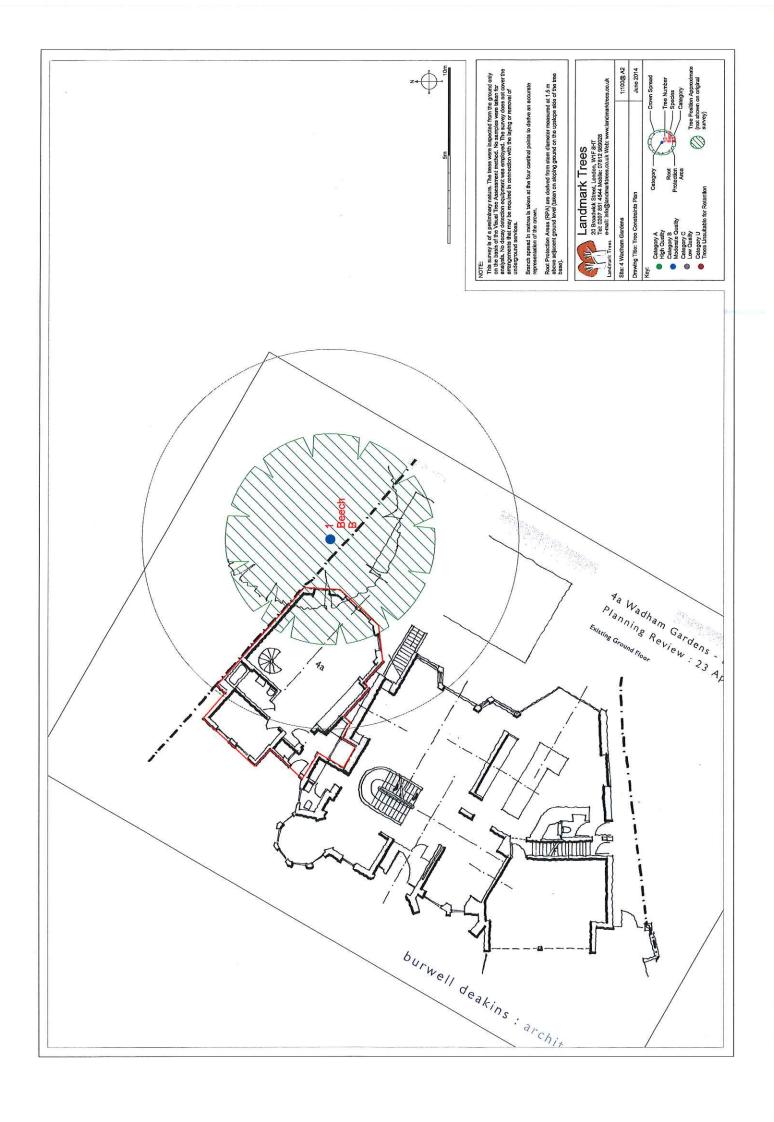
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APPENDIX 3

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TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN



APPENDIX 4

ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PLAN

